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Boo at the Zoo draws crowds despite the weather

ABILENE, TEXAS – More than 5,000 people donned creative costumes, happy faces, and fun attitudes to make Boo at the Zoo Saturday a wild success.

Event organizers scrambled at the last minute to adjust to the deluge of rain that hit the Big Country last week, ditching a hay bale maze and moving the treat stops inside the zoo's administration building. Hundreds of volunteers stayed the course, showing up to hand out candy, organize games, judge the costume contests and give their time to the zoo's biggest fund-raiser of the year.



“We had exciting plans for this year’s Boo at the Zoo, so it’s disappointing that we didn’t get to offer all of the new activities,” said Claudia Diltz, Boo at the Zoo chairman. “As it turned out, we had an enthusiastic crowd of volunteers and guests. The Dyess WeCare team hosted games with the kids. We showed off our three new bounce houses, and everybody had a great time.”

The animals got in on the fun, too. Zoo keepers gave them fresh pumpkins as animal enrichment, allowing zoo guests to see the animals snacking and playing with the bright gourds.

Boo at the Zoo has been an Abilene tradition for more than 20 years.

About the Abilene Zoo: The Abilene Zoo is home to more than 1000 animals of 250 different species. The zoo is open 7 days a week (closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year’s Day) from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Last admittance is 4 p.m. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$4.50 for children ages 3-12, \$6 for seniors aged 60+. Members are admitted free. Memberships start at \$35. www.abilenezoo.org. 325-676-6085. **Mission Statement:** *The Abilene Zoo is a place of learning and adventure, where families make memories, share the joy of discovery and become inspired to preserve wildlife.*